



News Release

Dixie National Forest

For Immediate Release
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TWO FIRES ARE BEING ACTIVELY MANAGED ON THE DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

CEDAR CITY, Utah – Wetter than normal conditions have provided an opportunity for the Dixie National Forest to actively manage two wildfires in Garfield County: Skunk Creek and Little Jake wildfires.

“Fire,” said Rob MacWhorter, Dixie National Forest Supervisor, “Along with timber harvest and mechanical treatment, continues to be an important tool in managing our forest. The wet conditions this summer have given us the opportunity to work towards forest plan desired conditions in a few, small areas by using fire to help create a healthier forest.”

The Skunk Creek Fire – located about six miles southeast of Hatch, Utah – has been controlled and containment is expected on August 28. Lightning started the fire on August 6 and fire managers have been using this fire to reduce understory fuel and promote ponderosa pine seed germination on approximately 224 acres. While there is no expected future growth of this fire, some minor smoke will be visible in the area over the coming week as isolated interior areas burn.

The Little Jake Fire – located approximately 14 miles northwest of Escalante, Utah – is being actively managed in a diverse and remote area of the Escalante Ranger District. Forest managers are using the fire to reduce understory fuels, promote ponderosa pine and aspen regeneration, improve vegetation health, improve wildlife habitat, maintain old growth character, and reduce future fire and smoke impacts. Lightning started the fire on August 18.

Fire crews have been applying fire to the ground to establish control lines to keep the fire in the desired location. Successful burnout operations were conducted on August 24 thru the 26. After the burnout operations the fire is approximately 535 acres. If conditions change that no longer support the desired objectives for this fire, fire managers will implement tactics to suppress this fire.

In both cases, where safe and practical, forest managers have worked to time smoke producing management activities to weekdays and not on weekends and holidays.

Forest and fire managers will continue to monitor the Skunk Creek and Little Jake wildfires.

Public and firefighter safety are always the highest priority for fire management activities on the Dixie National Forest.

For more information on wildfire in Utah, visit www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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